



(EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS)

LEFT: Local youth sit on Eden Prairie Schools’ Eagle Express while participating in the program’s educational activities. **RIGHT:** Eden Prairie Schools’ Eagle Express serves youth and families in the local area.

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so that every student could see themselves reflected in a possible job and opportunity.”

Local authors Jade Amez, Naima Haji, Keenan Jones, Thuba Nguyen, and Sarah Warren made appearances at the four neighborhood locations, participating in readings,

book signings and answering questions for youth attendees.

The Eagle Express will be visiting the same four locations this summer, having established a solid relationship with the property managers. At least one Community Education staff member oversees program activities; however, family members are encouraged to

stay near their children as they explore the bus services and learning opportunities.

To assist with space, Eagle Express staff set up tables, chairs and awnings for students and families to use while participating. If a child is 4 years old or younger, parents/guardians are required to stay with the child during program services. To make the

educational programming more accessible to all, older youth participants are allowed to come and go as needed.

In an effort to inform students of the bus services during summer months, program staff alert all property managers near the designated location stops and connect with school social workers, counselors and cultural

liaisons while school is still in session. High school students are even offered volunteer opportunities to assist with the program’s functions.

For Summer 2026, program staff hope to bring in more local authors through its partnership with Read with Me MN, a local nonprofit helping bridge the gap between authors and youth. Staff

are always seeking new local partnerships to expand learning opportunities.

“We’re hopeful that we’ll be able to continue that and continue not only sparking literacy, but providing inspiration to our Eden Prairie community students that anything is possible if you just put your mind to it,” Antilla said.





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